THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The judgement of the Supreme Court dated 27th October, 1987 deals with regularisation of daily rated casual labour and is not applicable to ED employees.

Payment of House rent allowance to ED Post Masters

3247. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pltased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give house rent allowance to ED Branch Post Masters for providing accommodation for opening a branch Post Office in villages; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) Branch Post Masters are entitled to Rs. 25/- per month as Office Maintenance Allowance. This allowance takes care of the element of rent for the Branch Post Office.

Recognition of extra-departmental employees' union

3248. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee for Extra Departmental Employees had recommended recognition of the ED Union consisting of all ED employees taken together; if so, what follow-up action has been taken in this regard;

(b) whether the ED employees are covered under the Departmental Council Scheme; if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any other forum to consider the problems of about 3 lakh ED employees;

(d) whether it is a fact that the ED employees constitute about half of the total Postal employees; and

(e) whether Government propose to create a separate cell in the Postal Department for the betterment of rural postal service and also to improve the service conditions of ED employees; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c) The scheme of joint consultative machinery applicable to the general class of Central Govt. Employees does not cover Extra Departmental Employees of the Department of Posts. However, recognised unions representing the Extra Departmental Employees are extended the facility of monthly meetings at the Division level besides quarterly meetings at the circle level. Periodical meetings are also held at the level of the Directorate. The Committee on Extra Departmental System has recommended that the facility of special casual leave granted to office bearers of recognised union of Govt. Employees for attending meetings with the officials at different levels may also be extended to the Extra Departmental Employee subject to the condition that there is a single association for all the Extra Departmental Employees taken together as a category.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

ED Mail-men in Delhi RMS Division

3249. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is he number of ED mail-men working a New Delhi RMS Division; and

(b) what is the amount of compensation paid to the ED mail-men every month during 1987-88 and so far during the current year on their detention beyond 5 hours per day?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a)

There are three RMS Divisions in Delhi Postal Circle. The number of Extra-Departmental Mailmen working in the 3 RMS Divisions is as follows:—

Name of the RMS Division	No. of ED Mailmen
1. New Delhi Stg. Division	90 (including 14 on deputation to APS.)
2. Delhi sorting Division	19
3. Air-Mail Stg. Division	2

(b) The required information has been given in the Annexure *See* Appendix CXLVII Annexure No. 125].

Steps to improve industrial growth in the Northern parts of the country

3250. SHRI P N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn to a report which appeared in the 'Economic Times' of the 25th July, 1988 to the effect that industrial units in the Northern parts of the country are hit by shortage of raw materials like coal, kerosene, power, furnace oil etc.; and

(b) if so, what measures Government are taking to improve the position and help the progress of industrial growth in the Northern region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Among the inputs power generation increased by 6.4 per cent during 1987-88 over 1986-87.

Kerosene oil is supplied to the State and Union Territory Governments essentially for cooking and lighting. The State Governments are free to release kerosene to essential industrial consumers from out of the State quota.

The sales of Kerosene, LDO and LSHS in Northern Region during April—June 1988-89 and April—June 1987-88 were as under:—

	Unit	1987-88 April-June	1988-89 April-June
Kerosene	000 KL	395.8	419.9
LDO	000 KL	62.0	71.5
LSHS	000 KL	327.8	342.7

Appointment of New Chairman of ONGC

3251. SHRI T. R. BALU:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have extended the term of the Chairman of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in the past two years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government will appoint a new Chairman for the ONGC after the *extended term of the present incumbent* expires as the Public Enterprises Selection Board had already recommended candidates for the post; and